

The Newport Mercury.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 25, 1863.

To all, the compliments suitable to the season; and a "Merry Christmas" to any who have good reason to be merry, so far at least as they may be merry on the present occasion without detracting from their future enjoyment of life. And, in the matter of economy as well as of conduct, while the peace and rights of others are not disturbed, each one is supposed to be his own steward. But what is most to be admired and valued in this land of religious freedom and equality, no one needs to be disturbed merely by the peculiar views of others in relation to the observance of this annual festival. Every one possesses the privilege here, by inherent right, of choosing for himself what in other countries could only be enjoyed, if enjoyed at all, under the grace of an act of toleration. The praise given to the founders of this privilege in Rhode Island as an acknowledged civil institution, is as well deserved and of so glorious a character that it cannot fail to perpetuate the fame of the State; notwithstanding any uncharitable errors which may have since been committed. But it is believed that there has never been in Rhode Island any interruption by law, or without law, and against law, of the free use of this festival by any denomination.

About sixteen centuries ago, or before, when the custom of observing the present day began or was beginning to be general, it was in some instances subjected to the most frightful and deadly persecution on record. But Paganism, it appears, soon became reconciled to the ceremonial and to the date of Christmas, which coincided so well with its own observances of days and seasons. The unchristian world were satisfied. The returning sun in the heavens gladdened their hearts with hope, and they spread their garlands of evergreen in anticipation of the time when the earth would again be clothed in verdure. And the date may be said to have fallen into the line of established usages in the world rather than to have been chosen in accordance with the best information. The twenty-fifth of December is included in the rainy season in Jules. Flocks and sheepards it is thought could not have been in the open fields of Bethlehem at that time, as we are told was the case at the time of the nativity. But the precise date is not so important as the fact itself which all christendom agree to commemorate. And the "old honor" paid to the day is still continued more or less in all Christian countries, so called; and that honor may be said to consist, in a great measure at least, in gayeties and festivities.

But strange that an anniversary so suggest full of themes of transcendent importance, should be subordinated in so great a degree to the grossness of animal appetites and to frivolous pastimes. This still appears to be the case in Europe, and especially in England, where Americans are in the habit of looking for instruction in regard to this and other things bearing upon the course and order of social life. Some people perhaps regard Christmas as but little less than an English institution. The descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers have not yet lost perhaps all the impression which they may be said to have inherited upon this subject; though it would be unreasonable to retain any prejudices against the "day" in this country. Christmas, like the theatre, helps to uphold the existing order of things in a land of unequal rights—but are not in themselves and of course prejudicial to republics. The few in England are mostly benefited by pomp and thus honored usages and parades. The "Yule Log" no longer is said to be seen upon the hearths of the people in general at this season, though it retains perhaps its importance in the Northern counties in many instances. Other signs of festivity distinguish the Court of the Queen and the mansions of the wealthy, where you must look to discover the splendor and good cheer of an English Christmas.

In the royal and aristocratic quarters, it seems, a state manager is appointed to preside over the revelry and the pastimes to which the inmates are devoted; and he is no doubt properly called the "Lord of Misrule." In Scotland they once had a similar functionary, called the "Abbot of Unreason"—though his office was abolished by act of Parliament about three hundred years ago. But the "Lord of Misrule" is understood to still maintain his authority from All Hallow Eve to Candlemas, presiding over the gaming, music, dancing, &c., of a most religious season—when the eating of mince pie is said to have been the chief test of orthodoxy. No wonder perhaps, that rigid Puritans could only regard these recreations at such a period with the utmost horror; and that they cursed such abuses of a sacred season with a wrath that at best seemed truly final. To eat, to drink, to sport—and perhaps to say one's prayers in a dress which the fashion would approve—does not appear to comprise the whole duty of a Christian community on such an occasion. But the Puritans in this country are no longer in antagonism with a persecuting "establishment," and they can afford and we trust do afford to be more charitable. The day is here regarded more or less on all hands, as the anniversary of a new era, and of the introduction of a new religion into the world, on which the morality and happiness of mankind most forever depend. The end aimed at appears to be to restrain vicious desires and to check violent passions; to turn mankind from doing evil and to lead them to do good to one another.

This Fourth R. I. Regiment are, probably, like all other regiments, anxious to come home, but the chances are not very favorable, unless two-thirds of the men present re-enlist for three years. A correspondent writing from there says:

"It is a matter of some gratification to the whole regiment, that there is a prospect of our spending a part of the month at home—Lieutenant Colonel Buffum is making every effort to obtain permission from the War Department, to take the regiment to Rhode Island for the purpose of recruiting the thinned ranks. We are in a Department where there can be no active operations for at least four months, either on our part or the enemy's, and according to what we are now reading in the newspapers, it is not possible that the same could suffer during our temporary absence. Col. Buffum is now in Rhode Island, having been sent there for the above purpose by Gen. Butler. May he be successful!"

The Scientific American, which is more especially intended for Mechanics, Inventors, Manufacturers, Engineers, Agriculturists and Chemists, but which is well adapted to all classes, commenced its ninth volume on the last of January. Terms \$1 per annum. Each of the above numbers will find a vast amount of useful and interesting reading in its pages with excellent illustrations and descriptions of all the principal inventions of the day. Adress M. & C. Co., 17 Park Row, N. Y.

John Wimberly Palmer, of the 1st R. I. regiment, is at home on a short furlough.

Gen. Burnside has arrived in Providence.

The report, some time ago circulated in the journals, that the Mexicans had retaken Potosi from the French, appears to have got into circulation without any foundation in fact; and to this may other articles of good news, to have become worthless while we were waiting for its confirmation. Who could avoid hoping that the Mexicans would be delivered from their invaders, even on the appearance of what might seem to be a very slight foundation for hope? In view of the present situation of that unfortunate country, however, the time that anything could be done for a restoration of the independence and for the security of civil and religious liberty, has long since past. What could be expected of a people who had spent so many years in civil strife, wasting and destroying their energies and resources? The center of corruption and treachery has perhaps eaten out the life of public spirit and left no animating support to public virtue. The few leading men who stood by their country's independence and freedom are becoming still less in number by death and desertion. COMMONWEALTH, who was reckoned one of the ablest on the liberal side, is reported as having finished his earthly career. VIDALI, equally able perhaps though of less distinction, is said to have gone over to the enemy and to have taken with him the States of which he was governor.—MEJIA, the cruel and barbarous rebel against the constitutional government of Mexico, has taken possession, it appears, of Queretaro in the name of the French. And while other places have been abandoned by the Mexican authorities, the French are advancing it is said upon San Luis Potosi, which JUAREZ had lately made the seat of his falling government.—And so we shall hear perhaps of the grand entrance of the Franco-Austrian Emperor, to take full possession of the country under the stipulated guarantee of its integrity. And possibly the report may be true, which said, that MAXIMILIAN made it an indispensable condition to his acceptance of the throne, that France should prevent the reconstruction of the American Union. *Ubique gentium sumus?* Where in the world are we?

NAVAL.—Acting Master's Mate GEORGE C. WILLIAMS, has been promoted to Acting Ensign in the Navy and detached from the gunboat *Nestor* and ordered to report to Rear Admiral H. PAULDING. Mr. WILLIAMS was formerly in the mercantile employ of various merchants in this city, but when the President called for the first 300,000 men, he enlisted in the 4th R. I. V., and when a call was made for volunteers to man the gunboats at the taking of Roanoke Island, he offered his services. He was on the *Commodore Perry* when the fleet was destroyed in Pamlico Sound, and raised the National Ensign on the first vessel captured. It was appointed Master's Mate and at the attack on Kingston, N. C., received a severe wound. He is represented as one well worthy of promotion and we are pleased to put his advancement.

Acting Master's Mate, WILLIAM J. ELDERICK, has been promoted to Acting Ensign in the Navy. Mr. ELDERICK was a volunteer member of the Newport Artillery and served in the three months campaign of the First R. I. Detached Militia. After the return of the regiment he received the appointment of Master's Mate in the Navy and having shown him self competent and brave, has received his promotion. He is attached to the gunboat *J. S. Cameron*.

Acting Master's Mate JOHN UTER is ordered to the steamer *Circassian*.

Lieutenant THOMAS L. SWANN has been detached from the Naval Academy and ordered to the steam frigate *Brooklyn*.

Acting Master Lawton COOPERAGE of the gunboat *Eugenia*, is at home on a short furlough.

The late PATRICK DUNNIGAN, whose disease was noticed some weeks since, was a very irascible, honest and indolent man; and by his frugality was enabled to accumulate property valued at about \$2500. By his will he bequeathed \$1000 cash, and a house and lot on court leading from Bowery street, to his youngest son, a cripple. To his eldest son he gave \$100 and \$100 to the Pastor of the Catholic Church. After the death of the youngest son, the property was to go to the eldest son, and after the death of both children, the property should go to the Catholic Church, for the support of the orphans of the church.—HENRY, the eldest son, was a member of the 4th R. I. regiment, and his life recently at Portsmouth, Va., while on picket duty. THOMAS A., the youngest son, died last Sunday, consequently the entire property is left to the church. We understand there are four or five houses in the city, which have heretofore been given to the church for this purpose, and the income is of great benefit in assisting the maintenance of children who would otherwise be cast out, but who are now properly cared for at the Catholic Orphan Asylum at Providence.

The first Battalion 14th regiment Heavy Artillery, (enrolled) under command of Major CONVERSE, sailed from this port Sunday morning in the steamer *Catobea*. The balance of State Guard was paid to the men on their paydays down from Providence Saturday, but the job was not completed in some hours after their arrival in the harbor. Every man answered to his name as the roll was called, and only one was left unaccounted for Saturday evening. They were apparently in good spirits when the steamer left the harbor, and we have no doubt they will give a good report of themselves hereafter.

The number of men requisite to fill the regiment has been secured, and some twelve hundred are now on Dutch Island awaiting a passage to their comrades, and get in a warmer climate.

Mr. CHARLES SPENCER, tinner, fell a scuffle in one of the buildings on Franklin's wharf Monday, and severely injured, I am, and is feared internally.

Mr. BENJAMIN BOSS was thrown from a wagon Tuesday, and badly injured, but is getting along nicely.

A horse smashed a wagon belonging to Mr. R. E. KIRKSTED, started from the Atlantic House Wednesday afternoon, and brought up against a lamp-post at the foot of Mary street, which was broken off.

CONGRESS has adjourned until the 5th of January. Two resolutions have been passed, each rendering the thanks of Congress to Gen. GRANT and the officers and men under his command and to Capt. JOHN ROOKES, for services made and general good conduct. A bill has also passed appropriating \$20,000,000 for advance pay and premiums to enlisted men, to commence January 1st.

MASS. PUEN & WESTCOTT, who have rendered their country in the Ninth and Twelfth regiments, announce in our columns to-day their commencement of business, and as they deserve a share of public patronage, we have no doubt they will receive it. It is gratifying to notice our young men thus endeavoring to find occupations in their native city.

THESE are upwards of thirty houses in this city rented for the season of 1864 and applications are made daily by new parties. The probability is, that there will be a scarcity of houses to let the next season, as many heretofore occupied by strangers have been purchased by parties who will occupy them during the winter.

We are unable to state the amount received by the Young Ladies Union Aid Society at their Fair which closed last evening, but judging from the crowds who attended, they must have realized a handsome sum. Great efforts were made to render the Fair attractive by decorating the Hall and offering useful and appropriate articles for sale.

THE three Episcopal churches in the city have been dressed with evergreen, in commemoration of the Savior's birth, and services will be held in each. An extra attraction at the Emmanuel will be a new organ which has just been purchased, by the efforts of the Rector's daughter.

ROBERT ROCK.—We learn that an accurate picture of this celebrated antique and the surrounding scenery, has been drawn by Mr. G. A. Stowe, of Digton, and will be issued in the course of a week from the lithographic studio of FARRINGTON, of Boston.

MR. ROBERT S. BARBER has been chosen Captain of the Aquidneck Infantry in place of H. T. SHAWLOW, recently elected Colonel, and Mr. THOMAS STEVENS has been chosen 1st Lieutenant.

The son of the Fourth Rhode Island regiment who was sentenced to be shot for desertion has been reprieved by the President, and will take six months to complete the sentence.

THE Scientific American, which is more especially intended for Mechanics, Inventors, Manufacturers, Engineers, Agriculturists and Chemists, but which is well adapted to all classes, commenced its ninth volume on the last of January. Terms \$1 per annum. Each of the above numbers will find a vast amount of useful and interesting reading in its pages with excellent illustrations and descriptions of all the principal inventions of the day. Adress M. & C. Co., 17 Park Row, N. Y.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

This edition report that the ironclads and the Monitor were engaged in the combatting in Clarendon, was a shock-judging iron.

